Noonty One Years
of Service

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HASTINGS FREE KINDERGARTEN

ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)

### THE HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

1928



(Early Photo)

Mrs. B. CROMPTON-SMITH
Life Vice-President

It is wise to pause as we come to the milestone of 21 years of service in our work of the Free Kindergarten Association in Hastings, and, as we do, we note with deep gratitude the ungrudging service given to the little children of our town by a band of devoted women; also the loyal support accorded by the general public in carrying out the work of the Kindergarten during many trying periods. Prior to July, 1928, when the first recorded meeting was held, several meetings were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. K. Chamberlain, who were the prime movers in starting the Association here.

A small band of women canvassed the town prior to the opening of the Kindergarten in the Y.M.C.A. lounge, with Mrs. McLeod as the voluntary Director, in February, 1928, with a roll number of 38. Mrs.



MISS HELEN FORD Vice-President



MRS. M. R. WILSON President



MRS. G. ROCHFORT Vice-President

### FOUNDATION MEMBERS STILL SERVING ON COUNCIL

MRS. R. M. LOVELL-SMITH Vice-President



MRS. M. J. E. BAUCHOP Vice-President



MRS. S. JONES Vice-President



McLeod held office till the end of the year, when Miss Black was appointed, with Miss Frost as assistant. A Mothers' Club was formed, with Mrs. Bennett as Hon. Secretary, and very early in the records we read they donated £3 towards the cost of tables and chairs.

Mrs. T. B. McNeil was the first Hon. Secretary of the Council and when she resigned in 1929, Miss Ford took her place, to hold office for the succeeding 17 years, when Mrs. C. P. Hopkins, our present Secretary, was appointed.

The Y.M.C.A. lounge was vacated in 1930 for the S.D.A. rooms, and in April of that year, owing to the growing numbers, the Kindergarten moved back to the Y.M.C.A., where it was when the Earthquake, 1931, compelled it to temporarily close down.

1930

In 1930 the Association became an incorporated society. In this year the southern area was canvassed with a view to starting a Kindergarten there, and it was found that there were 78 children who were eligible to attend. In July of that year the Association became affiliated with the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and delegates attended the Conference.

In September, 1930, advice was received from the Education Department curtailing all subsidies for building and equipment. The first shop day was held and realised £65 16s.

Following Miss Black, in 1931, Miss Fawke took up her duties, but owing to the earthquake returned to Auckland.

1931

In March 1931 the Kindergarten was re-opened in the Hastings Tennis Club's pavilion with 13 children. During the period between the earthquake and the re-opening, the President, Mrs. Bauchop, and Secretary, Miss Ford, were untiring in their service, devoting much time in visiting the children and mothers in their homes and keeping the affairs of the Kindergarten up-to-date. In the latter part of 1931 Mrs. Bauchop had to rest owing to illness and was granted leave of absence, Mrs. Joseph Wilson being appointed Chairman.

In September of 1931 the pavilion was vacated and the Kindergarten returned to the S.D.A. Hall. The Council held its meetings in St. Andrews and its Christmas Party was held there. At this time the capitation grant was reduced 10%. In the winter months of 1932 the local milk vendors supplied the Kindergarten with milk daily, free of charge.

The Art Union assistance in lieu of Government grant was received and the following year (1933) with the increasing roll (now 64), owing to the increased funds from the Art Union grant, the director's salary was raised to £124, and the assistant's to £20. The advisability of engaging a second assistant at £10 a year was considered.

The S.D.A. Hall being too small for the increased attendance a move was made to the Baptist Sunday School. In 1934, Miss Fawke resigned to be married and Miss Scaife was appointed at a salary of £130 per annum.

1936

Messrs. Roachs Ltd. provided us with a place of meeting from June, 1935, in which year Miss Scaife left to be married.

At the opening in 1936, the roll number was 41, with Miss E. Scotter in charge.

In 1937 the Government undertook the free distribution of milk, and with short periodic breaks, has continued ever since.

In 1938 a transfer was made to the Methodist Sunday School, and early in 1939 Miss Scotter moved to Christchurch and Miss J. Maginnis was appointed. She married during the year and was followed by Miss May Heale, who only stayed a year; then Mrs. Fool came and stayed till the end of 1944.

Kindergarten moved from the Methodist Rooms in 1942 to the United Hall, in Lyndon Road. After a year there the Buffalo Hall was taken until the end of 1948, when we were again given notice to find other premises, and so, with a deeper desire than ever for a permanent home, we very gratefully accepted a home in our present quarters, the Methodist Rooms. Miss Shaw, Treasurer, who had been on sick leave for some time, resigned in 1943 and Mrs. W. A. Bryant, who had been Acting-Treasurer, was appointed, which office she held till 1948, when Mrs. C. Pell took office.

1945

Miss N. Pilkington joined the staff in 1945, only serving a year (leaving to be married).

In 1946, Mrs. H. R. Edwards was appointed as part-time director, and the responsibility of the Kindergarten was ably undertaken by Miss Enid Westerman (who was one of the Kindergarten's early pupils) for three months and for the other terms by Mrs. Hope Low.

### STAFF

During the whole 21 years the Association has been fortunate in securing the services of very fine girls, both trained and untrained, as assistants, and would pay a tribute to the very good work they have done in the Kindergarten. Many of them after a year in the work here have gone to Wellington or Auckland to train.

Since its affiliation to the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union the Association has loyally supported the Union in its work. The President has attended all the Executive meetings, and it has been represented at the biennial Conferences, and, in consequence, has benefitted by its association with members of sister associations in the Dominion.

1949

### FINANCE

Throughout the whole 21 years expenses have been met by the aid of "Bring and Buy" tables and sales, card parties and concerts, jumble sales, street collections and shop days, numerous appeals in one form or another—and always we have been able to carry on. The Earthquake hit us badly, the depression years were a great struggle, the war had a very crippling influence upon our work, our helpers were so busy and mothers so overburdened, but we have still carried on and now, at the conclusion, of our 21 years, we are prepared to face the responsibility of new financial calls in the erection of our Kindergarten with a full roll and the expectation of opening other Kindergartens in Hastings and district.

We could not close this record of service without expressing to the past and present officers our deep appreciation of their sacrificial work; to the Mothers' Club, which through the years has been a wonderful ally; to the newly-appointed Fathers' Club, which has yet to win its laurels; to the Advisory Board, which quietly stood beside us, ready to help at all times; and, most of all, to the general public, which has responded so liberally and so loyally whenever an appeal was made.

MABEL R. WILSON, President. MYRA E. HOPKINS, Secretary.



MORNING TEA TIME AT KINDERGARTEN

### CHILDREN IN HASTINGS KINDERGARTEN, 1949

ABSORBED IN THE BUSINESS OF BUILDING



### TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE HASTINGS FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION

It gives the Council of the Hastings Free Kindergarten Association great pleasure in presenting this, the 21st Annual Report and to express its deep satisfaction in 21 years of service.

### KINDERGARTEN.

This year, in the Kindergarten, has been one of change and uncertainty. Under the Education Department's new regime, which started in April, the Staff have had to work longer hours to fit in with the 40 hour week planned for all kindergartens. Consequently their programme of work had to changed and the Kindergarten opened as a Play Centre on two afternoons each week. This did not meet with the popularity which was anticipated, only a few mothers availing themselves of its services.

The Methodist Church Trustees kindly acceded to our request for the use of their rooms, so we have found a happy home there, The rooms, though sunny and centrally situated, as all must realise, are not ideal for the work of Kindergarten, and the Staff have faced many difficulties in consequence.

As the months sped on we realised that our hopes of being in our own building before the end of the year were doomed to disappointment, so we had to apply for further permission to stay in the Methodist Rooms; consequently the feeling of uncertainty grew, though the attendance of the children was excellent and their health good.

### STAFF.

Misses J. Cribb and J. Sampson, as Director and Assistant Director respectively, with Miss Mamie Hickson and Miss Gwenneth Millar as their assistants, were the quartet who bravely tackled conditions as they started the year 1948. At the end of the second term, Miss Millar resigned to resume her studies with a view to applying for training, and towards the end of the third term Miss Cribb left to be married. Miss Sampson was then appointed Acting-Director with temporary assistance.

### MOTHERS' CLUB.

The services and social activities of the club have continued unabated throughout the year, and we are indebted to it in many ways for its loyalty to the work of the Association and look forward to its continued and greater usefulness. The Club, and we, owe a big "Thank you" to the yeoman service of Mrs. C. Pell, ably assisted by her Committee.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

This was held in April when His Worship the Mayor, Mr. R. D. Brown, presided. The reports and balance sheets were received and it was decided to re-model the constitution.

### RESIGNATIONS.

The resignations of Mesdames E. C. Bridge and A. Griffiths were received with regret.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY.

It was good to hold a party again. It was a great success, held on the morning of December 8th, with 100 children and almost as many adults present. Every child sat down to a party morning tea wearing gay caps (made by the Mothers' Club). Miss Sampson assisted by Miss Hickson and helpers, ably led the children in their games and songs. It was a great morning, long to be remembered by one and all.

### ANNUAL APPEALS.

The Jumble Sale this year realised £11 5s. 6d., while the Street Appeal brought us in £149 12s 2d. We acknowledge the help and kind generosity of all who assisted on these occasions.

### OUR NEW BUILDING.

We had hoped to have invited one and all to its opening before now. On April 16th, 1948, a deputation went to the Building Controller's office in Napier to apply for the permit and met with a very cordial reception and a promise of ready help. This was carried out and the application was forwarded to Wellington. Plans and pleas, in telegrams, letters and personal calls have been made at periodic intervals since then, until on Friday, March 25th, 1949, word from the Education Department was received stating that our plans and specifications were approved. A Building Committee was set up in readiness to call tenders and set the ball rolling so that no time would be lost when plans and specifications were ready, but their enthusiasm petered out long before any plans materialised.

We are indebted to Mr. E. L. Cullen, M.P., for his interest and help; Mr. C. Griffiths, the Chairman of the Committee (also of the Advisory Board); to Mr. W. Good, the President of the Fathers' Club, and last, but not least, Mr. E. Phillips, the Honorary Architect, for the work done in this connection.

### THE FATHERS' CLUB.

The men have done a good job of work in levelling up the section and ably assisting in many other ways. We look forward to greater opportunites of using their energy and service next year.

### OBITUARY.

It is with a sense of loss we record the passing of two members of our Advisory Committee, the late Mr. G. A. Maddison, who was deeply interested in the work of our Association, and that of Mr. H. J. Lovell-Smith, who was keenly interested in the erection of our new building and generously assisted the project. To Mrs. Maddison and Mrs. Lovell-Smith and their families we extend our sincerest sympathy.

### VISITS.

During the year we have had a very helpful visit from Mrs. M. F. Gallagher, the Education Department's Pre-School Advisor. Mrs. Gallagher pointed out how, though working under the greatest difficulties, the Staff could improve the routine of the Kindergarten.

Later Mrs. H. Barnard, the Assistant Secretary of the Free Kindergarten Union, visited us and also met the Council and the Mothers' Club at their meetings. Later she gave a report on the Kindergarten, but not a very satisfactory one, owing to the want of facilities for the hygiene and rest periods.

### THANKS.

The thanks of the Association are tendered the Officers who have ably carried on through a very strenuous year. They also pay a tribute of thanks to all those who, through the past 21 years, have shouldered the responsibility of the Kindergarten and served it in any capacity.

We also express thanks to the Advisory Board through their Chairman, Mr. C. Griffiths; to the Carnival Committee, through their Chairman, Mr. Giorgi; to the Mothers' Club and Fathers' Club, for their loyal backing and practical support. Especially do we thank those mothers who have assisted the staff when needed. To Mr. W. Warnes and Mr. Hall, who have donated rusks and apples for the children; The Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Brown, who have presided at our gatherings and functions; the Berough Council, for the use of rooms; to Mr. McKenzie, of the Borough Reserves for roses to assist Wellington Association in their floral carpet display; to the Auditor, Mr. A C. A. Hyde, and his assistant, Mr. E. Garnett; to the Press and to our very generous public, and last, but not least, the Trustees of the Methodist Church for their hospitality.

### PRESENT STAFF OF KINDERGARTEN



MISS C. BLINKHORNE

MRS. J. THOMPSON MISS J. SAMPSON

MISS M. HICKSON

### BRIDGE PAH PLAY CENTRE

Mr. K. Karaitiana, Maori Welfare Officer, approached the Hastings Free Kindergarten Association early in the year to see if it was possible to conduct a Free Kindergarten in the Peh. After various preliminary meetings a Maori committee was set up and it was decided to raise funds to buy the necessary equipment. A street day was held and funds were available, so the Association made the necessary outlay and secured the services of Miss Helen Wake, whom we have asked to tell the story of the Bridge Pah venture.

It is hoped to open a Free Kindergarten for the Bridge Pah children in the near future. A Play Centre was opened on February 1st. It is held every morning and on two afternoons a week, Tuesdays and Fridays. The daily programme is similar to that of a regular Kindergarten morning, to accustom the children to Kindergarten ways in anticipation for the future.

Building.—The building has been inspected for use as a Kindergarten, and it was found necessary to install heating for the winter, and have the interior painted a light colour.

Attendance.—The Play Centre opened with a roll of 13 which increased to 18. There is a regular attendance of 13. Two boys on the original list left to attend Paki Paki School.

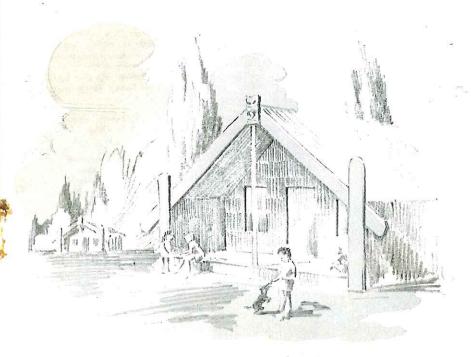
Health.—On the whole, the children are fit and healthy, there being very few absences.

Equipment.—We opened with a comprehensive list of equipment, including chairs, tables, mats and toys; and we are making additions as the roll increases and the children are ready for new occupations.

Staff.—I have a very able helper in Miss Parahi, who is most willing and co-operative; especially helpful in ways that are new to me.

In conclusion, I should like to extend my sincere thanks to the Council for their help and interest in this new venture.

HELEN WAKE, Director.



### MOTHERS' CLUB

"Every fortnight there's a meeting held for mothers of H.F.K.,

They meet and talk to everyone, always merry, bright and gay,

Their aim is to keep together and help where er they may,

To make these meetings popular and build a bigger H.F.K."

With the singing of this original verse the meetings of the Club open. It was the winning entry in an aggregate competition at one of the meetings and is sung to the tune of "Maori Battalion."

The committee of the club has been very active during the year and has provided excellent programmes at all meetings. An official hostess at each meeting has proved a social asset. The supper hostesses have taken their turn in alphabetical order. During the polio restrictions meetings were held in the evening and have been so popular that they have been continued.

We have a roll call number of 100, with an average attendance of 45. We combine with the Fathers' Club for social evenings and have had several very successful gatherings. We have had reference cards printed twice a year with dates and results of aggregate competitions and it has proved very successful. Our members helped the Council in their Annual Shop and Street Day Appeal, also at the Jumble Sale and the Christmas Party. At their request we packed and despatched the roses to Wellington for the florai carpet. The Club gave the annual fancy dress party which grows bigger every year.

A donation of several bundles of good, wearable clothes and £2 in cash was made to the U.N.O. appeal.

A children's home in England has been "adopted" by the club, and it has sent to the children there two cases of toys, soap and food stuffs (the result of an aggregate competition); also, a Christmas cake and sweets were sent in October.

Our fortnightly programmes have included, Roll Call with birthday button holes, question-answer periods, sales tables, stamps, aggregate competitions, addresses and demonstrations. We have to thank those who so generously gave of their time and talent and so enabled us to complete a very successful year of club work. We were pleased to have a visit from Mrs. H. Barnard of the Free Kindergarten Union, Wellington.

Special thanks are due to our officers, Mrs. E. C. Bridge (President), Mrs. N. Dagg (Vice-President),

Mrs. C. Pell (Secretary), Mrs. W. Good (Treasurer) and to the Director, Miss J. Cribb.

Mrs. Pell also acted as our accompanist and by her organising talent added to the success of our club.

Finance.—The building fund benefitted by the sum of £37 5s. 6d. for the year's efforts of the club's sale of stamps, party and various competitions. We have to thank Mrs. C. H. Bunker for a beautiful sleeping doll, which helped the funds considerably. The Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Brown, the Mothers' and Fathers' Clubs Patron and Patroness, were present and assisted at the prize giving when the following secured awards. Aggregate competition: Mrs. Wright 1st, Mrs. Hunt 2nd. All Entries: Mesdames Wright and Pell. One Entry Missed: Mesdames O'Connor and Hancock. Attendance: Mesdames Wright, Aitcheson and Forster.

(Signed) E. C. BRIDGE, President C. PELL, Secretary.

### FATHERS' CLUB

I have much pleasure in presenting this, the Second Annual Report of the Fathers' and Friends' Club of the Hastings Free Kindergarten.

We have enjoyed quite good attendances, at our meetings, but there is room for improvement.

The past 12 months has not been a very active or progressive period owing to the lack of building plans for our new Kindergarten.

We feel that the members really interested in the Kindergarten would be wasting valuable time at present, unless we have something definite to work for.

We are pleased to state that since our last report, we have had spoil dumped on the section, had Mr. Batson's bulldozer in and all levelling has been carried out preparatory to a final dressing of good top-soil. A "working bee" was called and all timber was carted from Ware's mill to the site by Mr. P. H. Butler (as a donation) and stacked by energetic members of our club.

We have had our ups and downs, but, we feel as a body of helpers that the effort is worth while in such a worthy cause as a new building of our own.

We would like to place on record the valuable services of Mr. P. H. Butler, who has always been at our disposal when any truck work has been required. Our thanks must also be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Ruffell for their generosity in making available a room, free of cost, at their private hotel, for all our meetings, and also providing us with a very nice supper afterwards.



In concluding this report, we trust that next year will bring some tangible results in the form of a new building, and that this club will carry out further improvements for Kindergarten purposes.

W. B. GOOD, President.
 H. FRANKLIN, Hon. Secretary.
 Fathers' and Friends' Club,
 Hastings Free Kindergarten.

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

### KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten this year has been held in the Methodist Rooms. We opened with 60 children on the roll, and during the year eighteen of these left to attend primary school, and their places have been filled from the waiting list. The attendance on the whole has been excellent.

### HEALTH.

The children's health has been very good, except for the usual winter colds. The Kindergarten was closed for several weeks during the polio restriction period.

### EQUIPMENT.

Owing to the Methodist Trustees not wishing us to bring in our heavier equipment (chairs, tables, slide, etc.), it was stored in a sample room kindly lent by Baird and Co. Consequently our Kindergarten has had to make use of what has been available in the Sunday School. Three of their large screens we received permission to re-cover with brightly coloured wall paper and pictures and these have added a brighter atmosphere to the room, and enabled us to divide it in two. We use one room as a bathroom, for which the Council provided basins and towels, etc. The other we use for hand work. We have added to our story books and also to our equipment. After several months without it, we received permission to bring in our Jungle Gym., which the children enjoyed very much. Also permission was given to put up a shelf to store some of our heavier toys on, for which we have to thank Mr. Good.

### MOTHERS' CLUB.

The Mothers are still very active and keen, working for new Kindergarten building fund, and several of their numbers have assisted the Kindergarten when we have been short staffed. It is a great pleasure to have them interested in the club work.

### FUNCTIONS.

The annual Fancy Dress Party was once again a very happy function. It was held in the Assembly Hall, and was opened by the Mayoress, Mrs. R. D. Brown; the Hon. E. L. Cullen was also present.

Our Christmas party was a great success. One hundred children sat down to morning tea provided by the Council, each child wore a paper hat, a gift of the Mothers' Club; morning tea was also provided for the parents who were present. Father Christmas handed a gift off the tree to each of the Kindergarten children. Play Centre children from Hastings and Bridge Pah also attended.

### PLAY CENTRE.

With the introduction of the longer hours for Kindergarten Staff, the Education Department has asked us to open a play centre on two afternoons a week and this was started during the last term, but was not very well attended.

Bridge Pa.—A play centre was opened at Bridge Pa in September, but owing to the shearing season and an epidemic of measles it had to be closed till after Christmas.

### THE STAFF.

Our Staff have worked together very happily, and have received at all times the willing assistance of the Council in their work in the Kindergarten.

Miss G. Millar left at the end of the first term to continue her studies with a view to training. During the last term we had the assistance of Mrs. G. Smith and Miss L. Dagg.

Miss M. Hickson we welcomed to the Staff at the end of the first term. Miss J. Cribb left towards the end of the last term to be married.

During the year the Staff has spent regular hours of study with Mrs. Crompton-Smith at her home in Havelock. Problems associated with the life of Kindergarten and phases of child psychology were taken by Mrs. Crompton-Smith, and we wish to record our thanks. Also to our visitors and all who have helped in the work of the Kindergarten. Included in our visitors were Miss M. Gallagher, from the Education Department, who gave us good advice, and Mrs. H. Barnard, of the F.K.U., both from Wellington.

(Signed) J. L. SAMPSON, Director.

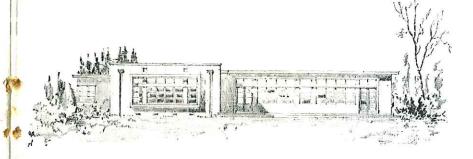
### PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Early in 1929 efforts were made to procure a suitable site for a Kindergarten, and as the records are perused, we find that various sections were offered the Council from time to time, but nothing was accepted till in 1946 the present site was inspected and found suitable, and after many negotiations, was procured. The late Mr. H. J. Lovell-Smith, who was keenly interested in the work of the Kindergarten, received the interest and cooperation of the Rotary Club and he, with Mr. W. Warnes and Mr. R. Giorgi, assisted Mr. C. Griffiths, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, in inspecting and finally securing the site we have in Hastings Street South, in May, 1947. A special public meeting was called in July, 1947, to form a committee to organise functions to raise funds.

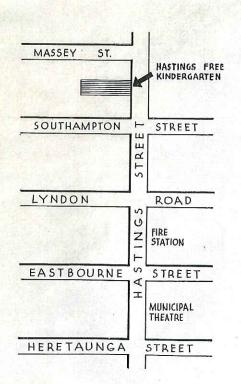
A special Carnival Committee was formed, with Mr. R. Giorgi as Chairman and Mr. W. Warnes as Secretary, and during the following months they explored every avenue in raising funds and secured £401 13s. 11d. After the site was purchased, timber to the value of £180 was bought when there was a great shortage of building materials.

A permit to build was sought on April 16th, 1948. Mr. E. Phillips, our Honorary Architect, drawing a sketch plan which, with improvements, was passed by the Department, to be sent in to the Borough Council. By this time September had arrived, and the plans had to go back to Wellington, and from then until December they went back and forth, each time the Education Department asking for more space, more cupboards and more lockers, etc., until it was March 25th, 1949, before the final agreement was reached.

Since purchasing the section a great deal of work, preparatory to building, in levelling up the section, bringing in soil, etc., has been done by the members of the Fathers' Club, and we have to record our thanks to them and to members of the Advisory Board and to Mr. E. Phillips for all the work they have so ungrudgingly done for the Kindergarten Association.



PROPOSED BUILDING, HASTINGS FREE KINDERGARTEN



The proposed building is to be fitted with ample space for the children's needs, having 60 separate lockers for coats, slippers. etc., in two large cloakrooms. Two storerooms, and a modern kitchen, staff room and office, are also planned to serve the needs of the Kindergarten.

### HASTINGS FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION (Incorporated) BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1948

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We have examined the Books, Accounts and Vouchers of the Hastings Free Kindergarten Association (Incorporated) for the year ended 31st December, 1948, and certify that the above Statements are in accordance therewith. All our requirements as Auditors have been complied with.

HASTINGS, 21st March, 1949.

McCULLOCH, BUTLER & SFENCE, Public Accountants, Auditors.

# HASTINGS FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION (Incorporated) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER,

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## HASTINGS FREE KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION (Incorporated) RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

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	PAYMENTS	By Salaries ., Rent, Sundry Expenses ., Equipment— Hastings	rased f	Total Payments for year Cash on Hand Dec., 1948 P.O.S.B. Bank of N.S.W.	
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	RECEIPTS	To Capitation Grant ,, Subscriptions ,, Donations— Parents General	Shop and Street Day Collections Rent Iumble Sale Carnival Committee Bring & Buy—Bldg. Fund Mothers Club Friends and Fathers of	ngs Bonds ergarten— amages to Bridge Pah ry Subsidy O.S.B. A/c.	Cash on Hand 1st Jan., 1948— P.O.S.B 119 Bank of N.S.W 324 Cash on Hand 2